

*Reason for Allowance*

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. Applicant stated that "...multiplexing cycle can be considered equivalent to a time to leak 188-byte data" (see Page 3 of the Pre-Brief Conference Request filed in 4/15/08) and "the time division multiplexing cycle is irrespective of the transport rate of said plurality of bit streams" (see Page 4 of the Pre-Brief Conference Request filed in 4/15/08).

2. In light of applicant's statement made on 4/15/08 (see above), none of the prior art of records teach or suggest in combination:

A data multiplexing method for a data multiplexer performing time division multiplexing of a plurality of bit streams, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting access unit information necessary for multiplexing processing from each of said plurality of bit streams; calculating a time division multiplexing cycle for each of said plurality of bit streams, such that a separator separates multiplexed data by a specified method on the basis of said information extracted by processing at said extracting step, wherein the calculating step calculates the time division multiplexing cycle irrespective of the transport rate of said plurality of bit streams, performing time division multiplexing of said plurality of bit streams on the basis of a result calculated by processing at said calculating step; and a second calculating step for calculating a data occupancy rate of a virtual data buffer of said separator, wherein said multiplexing determines an order in which said plurality of bit streams are multiplexed on the basis of the data occupancy rate of said virtual data buffer calculated by the second calculating step.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAREN C. TANG whose telephone number is (571)272-3116. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. C. T./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2451  
/John Follansbee/ SPE 2451